

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

DATE: 2 August 1954

THRU : Assistant Director/Research and Reports

SUBJECT : Report on field trip to Southeast Asia (Burma, Thailand, Indochina, Malaya, Singapore and Indonesia)

1. Purpose of trip. The trip had three primary objectives:

A. To discuss the inter-agency map procurement program with State Department officials in the respective embassies and consulates, and to develop plans for future procurement of maps and related cartographic materials.

B. Procurement of maps and related cartographic materials by the reportee.

C. Preparation of reports on mapping agencies in the countries visited.

2. Activities.

A. The map procurement program was discussed with an individual in each mission. Upon allotment of necessary funds and the receipt of specific instructions from the Special Assistant for Maps (OLI/M) State Department, this individual will procure or arrange to procure the desired materials. The individuals and posts are listed below:

1. Mr. O. Lee Blaine	Rangoon
2. Mr. William Thomas	Bangkok
3. Mr. Randolph A. Kidder	Saigon
4. Mr. Richard Nelson	Kuala Lumpur
5. Mr. Phillip Clock	Singapore
6. Mr. John O. Sutter	Djakarta

B. Map procurement - 1,200 maps and related items were sent from the countries visited.

C. Organization Reports - brief reports were submitted on eleven mapping agencies.

D. Miscellaneous - intelligence information urgently needed for a specific study on Indochina was compiled and telegraphed for the use of analysts in Far East Branch, Geography Division (D/GG/F).

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3. Difficulties. No difficulties were encountered.
4. Commitments. No commitments were made in the name of CIA.
5. Recommendations.

A. It is recommended that OLI/M maintain active contact with the individuals who have been designated as OLI/M contacts at the respective U. S. Missions. Frequent map requests to them should keep the arrangement active. Outstanding procurement by these contacts should be recognized by instructions of commendation to the missions.

B. It is recommended that an attempt be made to set up a liaison between the Survey of Burma and OLI/M with the intention of eventually procuring maps from that organization. At present government restrictions prevent such procurement but there is some indication that restrictions may be relaxed. Therefore, as a "softening up" process, it is suggested that textual information on latest mapping techniques be sent to the Director from time to time.

C. It is recommended that consideration be given to making arrangements for procuring copies of the "road logs" in the office of M. Andre Delacour, Directeur, Travaux Publics, Phnom Penh. These "logs" in book form show the location of culverts and bridges throughout Cambodia and indicate the present condition of the roads. Since the security of Cambodia is precarious, it would seem that arrangements to secure copies should be made in the near future. It is suggested that permission be obtained to reproduce the books from M. Delacour through the American Embassy, Phnom Penh, and Sgt. Clifford Evans, photographer, with the G-2 road team in Thailand, be requested to visit Phnom Penh and microfilm these "logs".

6. Other Recommendations Emanating from Trip Experiences.

A. It is recommended that when an ORR employee is sent into the field in lieu of a Geographic Attaché he be allowed to contact the Embassies which he visits.

During the reportee's visit to Indochina D/GG/F urgently requested certain information on Indochina. As some of this information was known to be in the files of the [REDACTED] contact was made with [REDACTED]. Excellent cooperation was received from the latter. Based on this experience, it is believed that the files of [REDACTED] throughout the world may have much raw data which would be of value to ORR. Conversely, a liaison between the [REDACTED] should have benefits for the former as the [REDACTED] should be able to offer advice on mapping intelligence of the particular country.

B. It is recommended that if the NIS is intended to be used in the field under urgent conditions, map indexes showing individual

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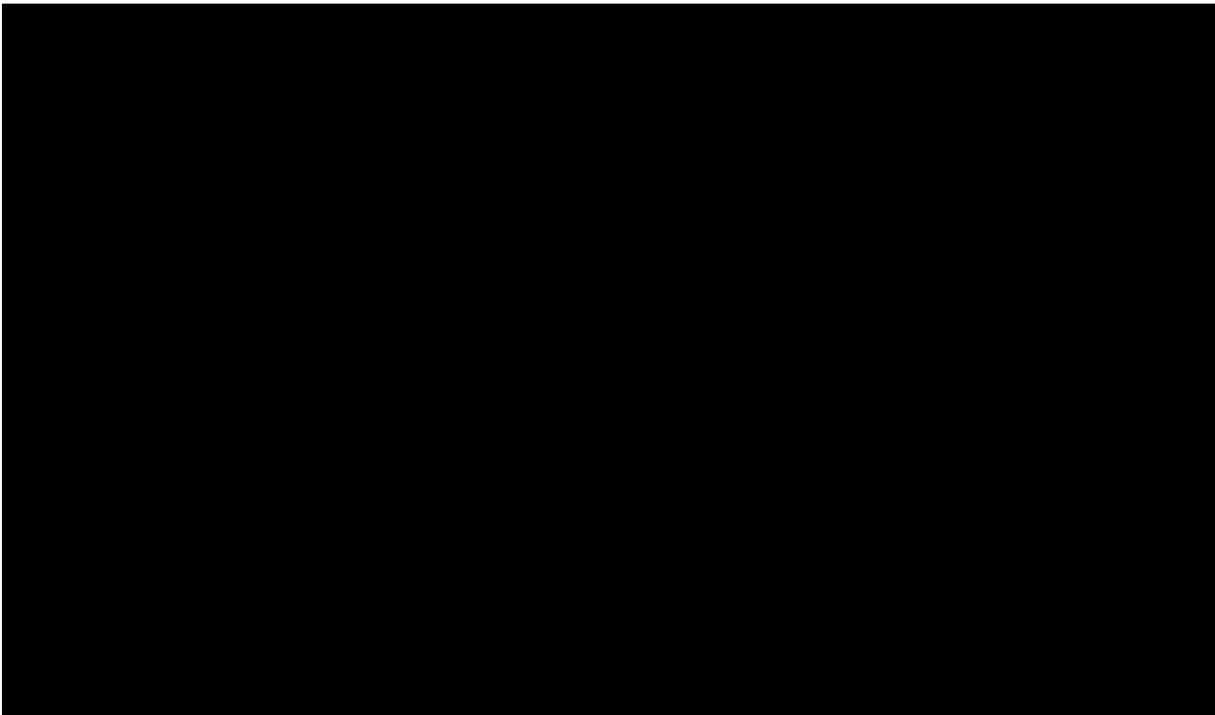
scale coverage be included in Chapter IX of the NIS without delay.

During the reportee's stay in Saigon, he was asked to brief a U. S. Airforce General on map coverage of Indochina. This was done orally, and an attempt was made to use the graphics of Chapter IX of the NIS on Indochina to present a visual conception of map coverage at various scales, i.e., 1:25,000, 1:100,000, etc. However, in its present form, Chapter IX contains only an index showing selected map coverage. This incident in Saigon demonstrates concretely the need for individual indexes for the different scale maps.

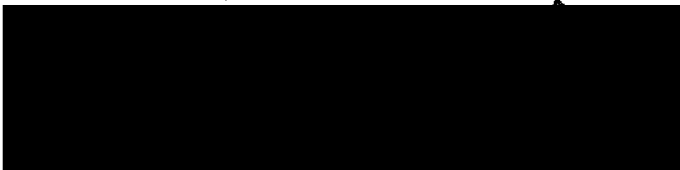
C. It is recommended that a Geographer (analyst) be assigned for a definite period of time to the American Consulate, at the strategically located town of Chiangmai in northern Thailand.

Chiangmai's relative proximity to northeastern Burma, Yunnan and Laos would seem to make it an important reporting post in an area which is of vital interest to the United States and Red China. However, it appears that the American Consul is the single man in this area who is transmitting the type of reports needed by D/GG/F.

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7. Evaluation. The reportee believes that the trip greatly enhanced his knowledge of the area and that the "Intelligence Community" benefitted from materials and information transmitted by him.



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